

Commission on Aging and Disability

The Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability was created by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1963. The commission is the designated state agency on aging and is mandated to provide leadership relative to all aging issues on behalf of older persons in the state. In 2001, the Legislature expanded the authority of the commission to provide services to adults with disabilities under age 60.

The Older Americans Act provides federal funds for administration and direct services. These services include congregate and home-delivered meals, protection of elder rights, supportive and in-home care, senior centers, transportation, and family caregiver services. The commission administers federal funds from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to operate the statewide State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides consumer education and counseling about Medicare, and all other related health insurances. The commission also administers state funds for multi-purpose senior centers, public guardianship, homemaker, and personal care services and home-delivered meals. The commission serves as the operating agency for a Medicaid Waiver that provides in-home services to older persons and adults with disabilities who choose to stay at home rather than be placed in a nursing home.

TCA 71-2-104 establishes a 25-member policy-forming and decision-making board. The Governor appoints 18 members, including a member of his staff. The commissioners of Health, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Human Services, and Veterans Affairs and the director of the Council on Developmental Disabilities are ex officio voting members; and the General Assembly appoints two non-voting representatives.

316.02 Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability

Mandated and Optional Services and Best Means of Providing Them

The commission, as the state unit on aging, administers the following Older Americans Act services: (1) Title III, Part B programs consist of supportive programs including access to care, in-home services, and community services. Innovative strategies for access to care include the development of a single point of entry information and referral system that is user-friendly, accessible, and includes on-line application. Supportive services primarily consist of case management, homemaker services, and personal care services; (2) Title III, Part C programs include congregate and home-delivered meals. Older Tennesseans eat over 15,000 meals at congregate meal sites annually; (3) Title III, Part D provides health promotions through screenings, fitness, and medication management. These services are provided primarily through activities and services through senior centers, such as: education and training; health education; health promotion/wellness; health screening; material aid/resources; medication management; screening and education; outreach; physical fitness/exercise; recreation; telephone reassurance; transportation; visitation; volunteer opportunities; and/or intergenerational activities; and 4) Title III, Part E, the family caregiver program, funded for the first time in 2000, helps people who provide primary care for spouses, parents, older relatives, and friends. The program provides information to caregivers about available services, assistance in accessing caregiver services, individual counseling, and supplemental services; in addition, the program organizes support groups and training for caregivers.

The commission also administers two home and community-based care programs: (1) Options – state funded services for elderly and disabled Tennesseans who need in-home assistance and who are not Medicaid-eligible, began in 2001. Services primarily include case management, homemaker services, personal care services, adult day care services, chore services, and home delivered meals; and (2) 1915(c) Medicaid Waiver – state and federally funded services for elderly and disabled Tennesseans who are medically and financially Medicaid-eligible for nursing home care, but who can be served at home. Services include enrolling individuals in the waiver services and the provision of case management, personal care services, homemaker services, personal care attendant services, adult day care, home delivered meals, assistive technology, minor home modifications, personal emergency response systems, in-home respite, institutional respite, pest control, adult day care, and assisted care living.

TCA 71-5-1401-1409 establishes the commission as the responsible state agency in developing, implementing and evaluating long term care services for older Tennesseans who want to live at home and remain independent as long as possible.

TCA 34-7-101 et seq. establishes the Public Guardianship for the Elderly Law and names the commission to administer the program, requiring it to provide public guardians within each of the nine development districts. Public guardians serve as conservators for disabled persons 60 years old or older who have no family members or other person, bank, or corporation willing and able to serve as conservator. The program is totally state funded.

TCA 71-2-106 establishes the Long Term Care Ombudsman and names the commission to plan administer, and operate a statewide long term care ombudsman program in cooperation with the Area Agencies on Aging in each development district.

Performance Standards

1. Improve the quality of life for elderly persons or other adults with disabilities by providing access to services, health promotions and prevention services, and in-home services.
2. Costs avoided for more expensive nursing home care by providing home and community based services for Medicaid eligible enrollees.

Performance Measures

1. Number of elderly persons or other adults with disabilities whose quality of life was improved by participating in services.

Actual (FY 2007-2008)	Estimate (FY 2008-2009)	Target (FY 2009-2010)
151,865	152,465	152,465

2. Number of slots used for individuals served in home and community based services through the statewide waiver, thus avoiding costly institutional long-term care.

Actual (FY 2007-2008)	Estimate (FY 2008-2009)	Target (FY 2009-2010)
3,689	6,000	6,500
\$50,166,450 fed. funds/ \$16,722,150 state funds	\$81,135,000 fed. funds/ \$27,117,000 state funds	\$176,260,500 fed. funds/ \$58,753,500 state funds

Note: These are conservative cost avoidance estimates in FY 07 and 08 based on only one-half of the enrollees served for a full year.

Means of Addressing Any Change in Services Since Previous Plan

On behalf of TennCare, the commission serves as the operating agency for the statewide waiver for the provision of home and community based services for enrollees who are eligible for Medicaid. The number of slots for the waiver will increased from 3,700 to 6,000 in FY 09. The commission partners with the area agencies on aging and disability to further develop the single entry point for the long term care system.

The General Assembly created the Tennessee Alzheimer's Disease Task Force, and the commission provides staff support to the task force. The Alzheimer's state plan is due in February, 2009.